

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

CU-04 /072 W

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P 221030Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2322

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0258

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI MASS DEMONSTRATION MARKING APRIL 21

1. SUMMARY: MASS MARCH BY UPWARDS OF 10,000 PERSONS FILED PAST CONGEN AT 2000 APRIL 21 IN PROTEST MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF 1967 MILITARY COUP. EVENT WAS ORGANIZED BY CU AND PASOK YOUTH AND ALL MAJOR LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST STUDENT FACTIONS. ND ABSTAINED AND ISSUED STATEMENT OF DISAPPROVAL BEFOREHAND. ORDER WAS MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT MARCHPAST BY STUDENT MARSHALS AND POLICE REINFORCEMENTS. NO DAMAGES OCCURRED TO CONGEN. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, RALLY TO PROTEST "NEO-FASCISM AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" BEGAN AT 1800 IN SAINT SOPHIA SQUARE. EVENT GIVEN WIDE ADVANCE PUBLICITY BY NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENTS, POSTERS PLASTERED ABOUT CITY, AND LEAFLETS WITH VIRULENT ANTI-US AND -GOG THEMES. REMARKS BY REPS FROM VARIOUS STUDENT GROUPS, AS WELL AS LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED DURING RALLY, WERE ALSO HEAVILY ANTI-AMERICAN. MAJORITY OF GROUPS INCLUDING CONTIGENTS FROM EDIN (CU YOUTH), PASOK, RIGAS FERREOS, KNE, EDA, AND KKE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR STAGED MARCH ALONG MAJOR THOROUGHFARES TO CONGEN. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. LOCAL NEW DEMOCRACY YOUTH WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE IN RALLY BOYCOTTED EVENT AND ISSUED STATEMENT SHORTLY BEFOREHAND CONDEMNING FORMATION OF "POPULAR FRONTS" AND EMPHASIZING DANGER OF IRRESPONSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS

AND SLOGANS WHICH DISGUISE "LEFTIST IDEOLOGIES".
RELEASE CONCLUDED THAT ND HAS DECIDED TO OPPOSE SUCH
DEMONSTRATIONS IN ORDER TO "PROTECT DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS". STATEMENT
PUBLISHED IN APRIL 22 LOCAL PRESS.

4. CHANTS AND PLACARDS OUTSIDE CONGEN WERE SAME
AS IN PAST DEMONSTRATIONS AND FOCUSED ON CYPRUS,
US BASES, FULL GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, AND
ATTACKS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER. WHILE
DEMONSTRATORS APPEARED LARGELY TO BE DRAWN FROM UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ELEMENTS, GROUP CONTAINED HIGHER PROPORTION OF MORE
SENIOR CITIZENS THAN PREVIOUSLY, PERHAPS AS MUCH AS 25 PER CENT.
MARCH WAS WELL-ORGANIZED AND CONTROLLED BY
MARSHALS APPARENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTION TO KEEP
CROWDS MOVING. HEAVILY POLICE REINFORCEMENTS SURROUNDING
BUILDING WERE NOT CALLED ON TO INTERVENE.

5. PRIOR TO ABOVE DEMONSTRATION SMALL GROUP
OF 200-300 MAOIST STUDENTS FROM PPSP AND PASP
FACTIONS PROTESTED BRIEFLY OUTSIDE CONGEN AT APPROX 1900.

6. DEMONSTRATIONS HERE AND IN ATHENS FRONT-PAGED
WITH PHOTOS IN ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF APRIL 22 WITH
CROWD ESTIMATED FOR LOCAL MARCH RANGING UP TO 20,000.
BRENNAN

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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